

MIS

Thy shepherds we hurt not, neither was there ought mis-
sing unto them.
For a time caught up to God, as once
Moses was in the mount, and missing long,
And the great Thibite, who on fiery wheels
Rode up to heaven, yet once again to come. *Milt. Par. R.*
5. To miscarry; to fail.
Th' invention all admir'd, and each, how he
To be th' inventor mis'd, so easy it seem'd.
Once found, which yet unfound most would have thought
Impossible. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*
6. To fail to obtain, learn, or find: sometimes with of before
the object.
Gritus missing of the Moldavian fell upon Maylat. *Knolles.*
The moral and relative perfections of the Deity are easy
to be understood by us; upon the least reflection we cannot
miss of them. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
Miss, *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Loss; want.
In humble dales is footing fast,
The trode is not so tickle,
And though one fall through heedless haste,
Yet is his miss not mickle. *Spenser's Pastoral.*
I could have better spar'd a better man.
Oh, I should have a heavy mis of thee,
If I were much in love with vanity. *Shakesp. Henry IV.*
If these papers have that evidence in them, there will be
no great mis of those which are lost, and my reader may be
satisfied without them. *Locke.*
2. Mistake; error.
He did without any great mis in the hardest points of
grammar. *Acham's Schoolmaster.*
MISSAL, *n. f.* [misale, Lat. misal, Fr.] The mass book.
By the rubric of the misal, in every solemn mass, the
priest is to go up to the middle of the altar. *Stillington.*
TO MISSA'Y, *v. n.* [mis and say.] To say ill or wrong.
Their ill haviour garres men missey,
Both of their doctrine and their fay. *Spenser's Past.*
Diggon Davie, I bid her godday,
Or Diggon her is, or I missey. *Spenser's Past.*
We are not dwarfs, but of equal stature, if Vives missey
Hakewill on Providence.
TO MISSE'EM, *v. n.* [mis and seem.]
1. To make false appearance.
Foul Dueffa meet,
Who with her witchcraft and misseeming sweet
Inveigled her to follow her desires unmeet. *Fairy Queen.*
2. To misbecome. Obsolete both.
Never knight I saw in such misseeming plight. *Fa. Q.*
TO MISSE'VE, *v. a.* [mis and serve.] To serve unfaithfully.
Great men, who misseved their country, were fined very
highly. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
TO MISSHA'PE, *v. a.* part. misshaped and misshapen. [mis and
shape.] To shape ill; to form ill; to deform.
A rude misshapen, monstrous rablement. *Fa. Q.*
His monstrous scalp down to his teeth it tore,
And that misshapen shape, misshapen more. *Fairy Queen.*
And horribly misshapen with ugly fights,
Captiv'd eternally in iron mews. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
This misshapen knave, *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
His mother was a witch. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
And will she yet debate her eyes on me, *Shak. Rich. III.*
On me that halt and am misshapen thus. *Shak. Rich. III.*
Let the misshapen trunk that bears this head
Be round impaled with a glorious crown. *Shakespeare.*
Pride will have a fall: the beautiful trees go all to the
wreck here, and only the misshapen and despicable dwarf is
left standing. *L'Estrange.*
Pluto hates his own misshapen race,
Her sister furies fly her hideous face. *Dryden's En.*
They make bold to destroy ill-formed and misshapen pro-
ductions. *Locke.*
The Alps broken into so many steps and precipices, form
one of the most irregular, misshapen scenes in the world. *Addis.*
We ought not to believe that the banks of the ocean are
really deformed, because they have not the form of a regular
bulwark; nor that the mountains are misshapen, because they
are not exact pyramids or cones. *Bentley's Sermons.*
Some figures monstrous and misshap'd appear
Consider'd singly, or beheld too near,
Which but proportion'd to their size or place,
Due distance reconciles to form and grace. *Pope.*
2. In *Shakespeare*, perhaps, it once signifies ill directed: as, to
shape a course.
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
Misshapen in the conduct of them both,
Like powder in a skill-less soldiers flask,
Is set on fire. *Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet.*
MISSILE, *adj.* [missilis, Lat.] Thrown by the hand; striking
at distance.
We bend the bow, or wing the missile dart. *Pope.*

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MISSION, *n. f.* [missio, Latin.]
1. Commision; the state of being sent by supreme authority.
Her son tracing the desert wild,
All his great work to come before him set,
How to begin, how to accomplish best,
His end of being on earth, and mission high. *Milt. Pa. Reg.*
The divine authority of our mission, and the powers vested
in us by the high-priest of our profession, Christ Jesus, are
publicly disputed and denied. *Atterbury.*
2. Persons sent on any account, usually to propagate religion.
In these ships there should be a mission of three of the bre-
thren of Solomon's house, to give us knowledge of the
sciences, manufactures, and inventions of all the world, and
bring us books and patterns; and that the brethren should
stay abroad till the new mission. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*
3. Dismission; discharge. Not in use.
In Cesar's army, somewhat the soldiers would have had,
yet only demanded a mission or discharge, though with no in-
stant it should be granted, but thought to wrench him to
their other desires; whereupon with one cry they asked mis-
sion. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*
4. Faction; party. Not in use.
Glorious deeds, in these fields of late,
Made emulous missions 'mongst the gods themselves,
And drove great Mars to faction. *Shakespeare.*
MISSIONARY, *n. f.* [missionaire, French.] One sent to propa-
gate religion.
You mention the prebyterian missionary, who hath been
perfected for his religion.
Like mighty missioner you come,
Ad partes infidelium. *Dryden.*
MISSIVE, *adj.* [missive, French.]
1. Such as may be sent.
The king grants a licence under the great seal, called a
conge d'elire, to elect the person he has nominated by his
letters missive. *Adelphi's Paragon.*
2. Used at distance.
In vain with darts a distant war they try,
Short, and more short, the missive weapons fly. *Dryden.*
MISSIVE, *n. f.* [French.]
1. A letter sent: it is retained in Scotland in that sense.
Great aids came in to him; partly upon missives, and
partly volunteers from many parts. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
2. A messenger.
Rioting in Alexandria, you
Did pocket up my letters; and with taunts
Did gibe my missive out of audience. *Shakespeare.*
While wrapt in the wonder of it came missives from the
king, who all hail'd me thane of Cawder. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
MISSPEAK, *v. a.* [mis and speak.] To speak wrong.
It is not so; thou hast misspoke, misheard;
Tell o'er thy tale again. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
A mother delights to hear
Her early child mispeak half-utter'd words. *Dennis.*
MIST, *n. f.* [mist, Saxon.]
1. A low thin cloud; a small thin rain not perceived in single
drops.
Old Chaucer, like the morning star,
To us discovers day from far;
His light those mists and clouds dissolv'd
Which our dark nation long involv'd. *Denham.*
And mists condens'd to clouds obscure the sky,
And clouds dissolv'd, the thirsty ground supply. *Reform.*
As a mist is a multitude of small but solid globules, which
therefore descend; so a vapour, and therefore a watry cloud,
is nothing else but a congeries of very small and concave glo-
bules, which therefore ascend to that height, in which they
are of equal weight with the air, where they remain suspend-
ed, till by some motion in the air, being broken, they de-
scend in solid drops; either small, as in a mist, or bigger,
when many of them run together, as in rain. *Greene.*
But hovering mists around his brows are spread,
And night with fable shades involves his head. *Dryden.*
A cloud is nothing but a mist flying high in the air, as a
mist is nothing but a cloud here below. *Locke.*
2. Any thing that dims or darkens.
My peoples eyes were once blinded with such mists of suf-
ficion, they are soon misled into the most desperate actions.
King Charles.
His passion cast a mist before his sense,
And either made or magnify'd th' offence. *Dryden.*
TO MIST, *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cloud; to cover with a
vapour or steam.
Lend me a looking-glass;
If that her breath will mist or stain the stone,
Why then the lives. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
MISTAKABLE, *adj.* [from mistake.] Liable to be conceived
wrong.
It is not strange to see the difference of a third part in so
large an account, if we consider how differently they are let
forth in minor and less mistakable numbers. *Brown.*
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TO MISTAKE, *v. a.* [mis and take.] To conceive wrong; to
take something for that which it is not.
The towns, neither of the one side nor the other, willingly
opening their gates to strangers, nor strangers willingly en-
tering for fear of being mistaken. *Sidney.*
These do truly apprehend a great affinity between their
practice of invocation of saints and the heathen idolatry, or
else there was no danger one should be mistaken for the other.
Stillington.
This if neglected will make the reader very much mis-
take, and misunderstand his meaning, and render the sense very
perplexed. *Locke.*
Fancy passes for knowledge, and what is prettily said is mis-
taken for solid. *Locke.*
Fools into the notion fall,
That vice or virtue there is none at all;
Ask your own heart, and nothing is so plain,
'Tis to mistake them costs the time and pain. *Pope.*
TO MISTAKE, *v. n.* To err; not to judge right.
Seeing God found folly in his angels; mens judgments,
which inhabit these houses of clay, cannot be without their
mistakings. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*
Seldom any one mistakes in his names of simple ideas, or
applies the name red to the idea green. *Locke.*
Servants mistake, and sometimes occasion misunderstand-
ing, among friends. *Swift.*
MISTAKE, *pret. and part. pass.* of mistake for mistaken, and so
retained in Scotland.
This dagger hath mistak'en; for lo! the sheath
Lies empty on the back of Mountague,
The point missteach'd in my daughter's bosom. *Shakespeare.*
TO BE MISTAKEN. To err.
England is so idly king'd.
— You are too much mistaken in this king:
Question, your grace, the late ambassadors,
How modest in exception, and withal
How terrible in constant resolution. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
Mistaken Brutus thought to break their yoke,
But cut the bond of union with that stroke. *Waller.*
MISTAKE, *n. f.* [from the verb.] Misconception; error.
He never shall find out fit mate; but such
As some misfortune brings him, or mistake. *Milton.*
Infidelity is an absolute security of the understanding from
all possibility of mistake in what it believes. *Tillotson.*
Those errors are not to be charged upon religion, which
proceed either from the want of religion, or superstitious mis-
takes about it. *Bentley's Sermons.*
MISTAKINGLY, *adv.* [from mistaking.] Erroneously; falsely.
The error is not in the eye, but in the estimative faculty,
which mistakingly concludes that colour to belong to the wall
which does indeed belong to the object. *Boyle on Colours.*
TO MISTAKE, *v. a.* [mis and take.] To state wrong.
They mistake the question, when they talk of pressing cere-
monies. *Bishop Sanderson.*
Such guides shall be set over the several congregations as
will be sure to mislead them. *Bishop Sanderson.*
The extravagances of the lowest life are the more con-
summate disorders of a mislaught or neglected youth. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
TO MISTE'LL, *v. a.* [mis and tell.] To tell unfaithfully or in-
accurately.
TO MISTE'MPER, *v. a.* [mis and temper.] To temper ill; to
disorder.
This inundation of missemp'd humour
Refts by you only to be qualified. *Shakespeare. King John.*
MISTE'RY, *adj.* [from mestier, trade, French.] What mister,
what kind of.
The redcross knight toward him crossed fast,
To weet what mister wight was to dismay'd,
There him he finds all fencible and agall. *Spenser.*
TO MISTE'RM, *v. a.* [mis and term.] To term erroneously.
Hence banished, is banish'd from the world;
And world exil'd is death. That banished
Is death miste'rm'd. *Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet.*
TO MISTH'NK, *v. a.* [mis and think.] To think ill; to think
wrong.
How will the country, for these woful chances,
Misthink the king, and not be satisfy'd. *Shakespeare.*
We, the greatest, are misthought
For things that others do. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
Thoughts! which how found they harbour in thy breast,
Adam! Misthought of her to thee so dear? *Milton.*
TO MIST'NE, *v. a.* [mis and time.] Not to time right; not
to adapt properly with regard to time.
MISTINESS, *n. f.* [from misty.] Cloudiness; state of being
overcast.
The speedy depredation of air upon watry moisture, and
version of the same into air, appeareth in the sudden vanish-
ing of vapours from glass, or the blade of a sword, such as
doth not at all detain or imbibe the moisture, for the mistiness
scattereth immediately. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. No. 91.*

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MISTION, *n. f.* [from mistus, Latin.] The state of being
mingled.
In animals many actions are mixt, and depend upon their
living form as well as that of mistion, and though they wholly
seem to retain unto the body, depart upon disunion. *Browne.*
Both bodies do, by the new texture resulting from their
mision, produce colour. *Boyle on Colours.*
MISTLETOE, *n. f.* [myrtelzan, Saxon; mistel, Danish, bird-
lime, and ran, a twig.] A plant.
The flower of the mistletoe consists of one leaf, which is
shaped like a bason, divided into four parts, and beset with
warts; the ovary which is produced in the female flowers is
placed in a remote part of the plant from the male flowers,
and consists of four shorter leaves; this becomes a round berry
full of a glutinous substance, inclosing a plain heart-shaped
seed: this plant is always produced from seed, and is not to
be cultivated in the earth, as most other plants, but will
always grow upon trees; from whence the ancients account-
ed it a super-plaut, who thought it to be an excrescence on
the tree without the seed being previously lodged there, which
opinion is now generally confuted. The manner of its propa-
gation is as follows, viz. the mistletoe thrush, which feeds
upon the berries of this plant in winter when it is ripe, doth
open the seed from tree to tree; for the viscous part of the
berry, which immediately furrounds the seed, doth sometimes
fasten it to the outward part of the bird's beak, which, to
get disengaged of, he strikes his beak at the branches of a
neighbouring tree, and so leaves the seed sticking by this vis-
cous matter to the bark, which, if it lights upon a smooth
part of the tree, will fasten itself, and the following winter
put out and grow: the trees which this plant doth most re-
adily take upon are the apple, the ash, and some other smooth
rind trees: it is observable, that whenever a branch of an
oak tree hath any of these plants growing upon it, it is cut
off, and preserved by the curious in their collections of na-
tural curiosities. *Milner.*
If snow do continue, sheepe hardly that fare
Crave mistle and ivie for them for to spare. *Tusser's Husb.*
A barren and detested vale, you see it is:
The trees, though Summer, yet forlorn and lean,
O'ercome with moss, and baleful mistletoe. *Shakespeare.*
Mistletoe groweth chiefly upon crab trees, apple trees, some-
times upon hazels, and rarely upon oaks; the mistletoe whereof
is counted very medicinal: it is ever green Winter and Sum-
mer, and beareth a white glittering berry; and it is a plant
utterly differing from the plant upon which it groweth. *Bacon.*
All your temples throw
With laurel green, and sacred mistletoe. *Gay's Trivia.*
MISTLIKE, *adj.* [mist and like.] Resembling a mist.
Good Romeo, hide thyself.
— Not I, unless the breath of heart-sick groans,
Mistlike in fold me from the search of eyes. *Shakespeare.*
MISTO'LD, particip. pass. of mistell.
MISTO'OK, particip. pass. of mistake.
Look nymphs, and shepherds look,
What sudden blaze of majesty,
Too divine to be mistook. *Milton.*
MISTRESS, *n. f.* [mistresse, mistress, French.]
1. A woman who governs: correlative to subject or to ser-
vant.
Here stood he in the dark, his sharp sword out,
Mumbling of wicked charms, conjuring the moon
To stand's auspicious mistress. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
Let us prepare
Some welcome for the mistress of the house. *Shakespeare.*
Like the lily,
That once was mistress of the field and flourish'd,
I'll hang my head and perish. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*
He'll make your Paris love shake for it,
Were it the mistress court of mighty Europe. *Shakespeare.*
I will not charm my tongue, I'm bound to speak;
My mistress here lies murder'd in her bed. *Shakespeare. Othello.*
The late queen's gentlewoman! a knight's daughter!
To be her mistress mistress the queen's queen. *Shakespeare.*
Rome now is mistress of the whole world, sea and land,
to either pole. *Ben. Johnson's Catiline.*
Wonder not, sovereign mistress! if perhaps
Thou can't, who art sole wonder; much less arm
Thy looks, the heav'n of mildness, with disdain. *Milton.*
Those who assert the lunar orb presides
O'er humid bodies, and the ocean guides;
Whose waves obsequious ebb, or swelling run
With the declining or encreasing moon;
With reason seem her empire to maintain
As mistress of the rivers and the main. *Blackmore.*
mistress at sea so long! *Arbutnot on Coins.*
2. A woman who possesses faculties uninjured.
There had she enjoyed herself while she was mistress of
herself, and had no other thoughts but such as might arise
out of quiet senses. *Sidney, l. ii.*
Agas